

2005 Budget Community Investments

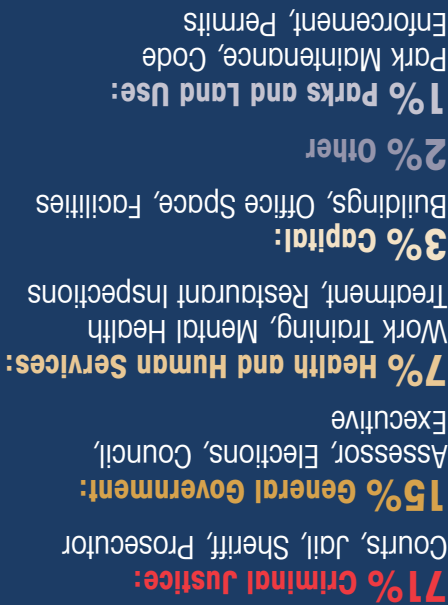
The Highline Historical Society is slated to receive an investment which will go toward the construction of a new heritage museum in Burien's new city center. The museum will display artifacts, old photographs, letters, and oral histories from people who lived in the Highline area.

The City of Kent is slated to receive funding for three park projects. The projects include: acquisition of land for park space at Clark Lake, an addition to Canterbury Park, and Mill Creek/Green River park area, which will double as an opportunity for restoration of the historic riverside channel in the area.

The Highline YMCA will receive a contribution from King County, which will be used to build a new Highline YMCA in the City of SeaTac. The new facility will provide many services, including after school programs, family classes and physical fitness. An indoor pool may also be part of the new facility.

The Auburn Symphony will receive funding to expand its programs and performances. The distinguished musicians in the Auburn Symphony also comprise the orchestra in the Pacific Northwest Ballet and the Seattle Opera. **These organizations do so much to enrich our community and it's great to see each growing and expanding.**

What else does King County do for me?



King County General Fund

Every Day King County:

Wastewater Treatment
Treats 192 million gallons of wastewater (over a year that's roughly enough water to fill the former Seattle Kingdom 140 times).

Metro Bus Service
Provides about 274,000 rides on Metro buses (if you lined up 274,000 cars end to end, the line would extend 882 miles).

Solid Waste Service
Processes 2,300 tons of waste through transfer stations and the regional landfill for 1.2 million residents of King County.

Other services include: Search and Rescue, Public Health, Sheriff's Office, Prosecutor, Drug and Alcohol Treatment, Parks, Open Space, Elections, and much more.

King County Adopts 2005 Budget

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2. Type your email address in the yellow box on my homepage
3. Click 'go' and fill in your name and address, then click 'submit'

You have successfully enrolled to receive my e-newsletter!

Beginning in 2005, I'll send e-newsletters covering topics relating to County government as well as special interest information and district events. E-newsletters are a great way to get information to you fast and keep you informed of how King County is working. E-newsletters save money and don't accidentally get thrown away or lost in the mail!

www.metrokc.gov/patterson

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Metropolitan King County Council Budget Report

Councilmember

Julia Patterson

Julia Patterson
King County Council
District 13

Dear Neighbors,

My colleagues on the King County Council and I just passed a unanimous, bipartisan budget, without any new general taxes. The final 13-0 vote marks the third straight year that the King County budget was adopted by a unanimous vote. I'm pleased to report that the King County budget is balanced, in spite of the fact that we have been experiencing difficult economic times.

In this newsletter, I describe what King County government does for you, and how the new budget will support public services in 2005.

I've include a 'Year in Review' section, which highlights different South King County events and organizations.

It's been a great pleasure serving you this past year. Please take a look inside to see what your government does for you.

Julia Patterson
King County

www.metrokc.gov/patterson

Julia Patterson

Year in Review

Van Donations

In November, I delivered 'retired' county vans to Kent Youth and Family Services and the Highline Food Bank. Vans are donated to nonprofit groups to help meet the transportation needs of low-income, elderly or disabled residents.

The Highline Food Bank serves a growing population of working poor, unemployed and homeless residents of SeaTac, Normandy Park and Burien. The food bank operates out of the Manhattan Community Center on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and passes out bags of food to thousands of families every year. Prior to receiving a County van, Executive Director Mike Werle had to borrow volunteers' vehicles to transport food.

Kent Youth and Family Services also received a van donation, which they now use for youth trips and activities. Kent Youth and Family Services provides programs including: youth and family counseling, gang intervention, drug prevention and parenting classes, drug and alcohol treatment, employment programs, tutoring and family support. Kent Youth and Family services has been an active community organization for over 34 years.

I am grateful for the Highline Food Bank and Kent Youth and Family Services' commitment to the poor and was delighted to deliver vehicles to these organizations.



Julia hands the county van keys to Mike Werle, Executive Director of the Highline Food Bank, with volunteers Jerry Hoffman and Harry Macrae.

Politics of Hope

In October, fellow Councilmember Kathy Lambert (R – Redmond) and I joined author Donna Zajonc at the Elliott Bay Book Store for a book signing celebration. Ms. Zajonc's new book, "Politics of Hope: Reviving the Dream of Democracy", highlights the story of Kathy and my bipartisan friendship and our ability to work on legislation together.

The "Politics of Hope" talks about the pact Kathy and I made to genuinely listen to and trust one another. We know that our different political perspectives make our work stronger, and we welcome input instead of rejecting the other's views, even though we don't always agree.

Donna Zajonc's book is available at most bookstores and you can find the link on my website: www.metrokc.gov/patterson.



Julia and fellow Councilmember Kathy Lambert, before their book signing with Donna Zajonc, author of Politics of Hope.

Arts Summit

Last Spring, I hosted an Arts and Culture Summit, bringing music, arts and history organizations together in order to explore ways to make them a more visible presence in our community. These organizations then formed the South King County Cultural Coalition (SKCCC).

The SKCCC is now a large and active coalition, boasting a membership of 26 organizations and growing! Examples of some of the members are: Evergreen City Ballet, Greater Kent Historical Society, City of Burien Arts Commission, Northwest Renaissance Poets, and Breeders Theatre. They have launched a new website highlighting upcoming events, arts and cultural organizations and information on how to get involved with the coalition. The website is: www.sococulture.org. I am extremely proud of their hard work and success.



Julia with members of the new South King County Cultural Coalition



Julia spends time at the Highline Food Bank, giving canned food to residents in need.

Youth Sports Facility Grants

The budget included a series of grants for construction and maintenance of youth sports facilities. The following schools and parks in our area were selected to receive this funding: Saint Philomena School in Des Moines, Bow Lake Elementary in SeaTac and Steven J. Underwood Memorial Park in Des Moines.

Saint Philomena School received \$25,300 to update and repair their playground equipment. Saint Philomena's playground has always been open and free to the community, and it hosts many children after school hours.

Bow Lake Elementary school applied for and was granted \$13,810 to create a second baseball field. Funding for the project will pay for spectator benches and fencing, and will create a baseball diamond which will provide a quality field for youth and the community.

The Steven Underwood Memorial Park was awarded \$45,000 in King County funding to install lights in its sports complex. Additional lighting will allow the ballfield complex, which contains three baseball fields, to operate after dusk and on dark days.

South King County needs safe places for young people to go after school to exercise and participate in sports. Parks and ballfields help build healthy communities and I'm pleased that this funding was secured.

Christmas Chickens for Food Banks

The South King County Food Bank Coalition received \$5,000 last month. The Coalition, which includes 11 South County Food Banks, was facing a financial shortage for Christmas chickens. The donor who usually provides the chickens, was unable to finance the annual gift this year, leaving food banks scrambling to make up the difference. The County's donation helped fill the gap, guaranteeing that South King County Food Banks will have chickens for the holidays.

Economic Engine Luncheon

This Fall, Local Chambers of Commerce including Kent, Auburn, Renton and Tukwila, sponsored a study to determine the overall business climate in South King County. The study found that there is enormous growth potential locally. Businesses find a wealth of benefits when they locate in South King County.

After the Economic Engine study findings were presented, I moderated a panel of several area business executives and owners. The panelists presented compelling testimonials on the benefits and challenges of doing business in South King County. I know everyone now has a better understanding of the business climate in our area.



Julia moderates a discussion with panelists Gary Young, VP of Polygon Northwest; Dave Thompson, McClendon Hardware; and Patricia Lovell, VP GVA Kidder Matthews.

Outstanding Business Awards

Earlier this year, the Southwest King County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau hosted a luncheon to present Outstanding Business Awards. It was a wonderful celebration of our local businesses and their achievements.

I was privileged to present the Chairman's Award, which was shared by three cities: Burien, SeaTac, and Tukwila. These cities have exhibited ingenuity, perseverance and growth, even when faced with difficult economic times.

The Outstanding Business Awards luncheon was a successful and well-attended event. I commend the Southwest Chamber for recognizing the importance of rewarding ethical and forward-thinking organizations.